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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wait Until its Safe to Handle and Dispose of Fire Debris

County officials remind property owners that fire debris is potentially dangerous and must be handled safely, and that the county has launched a program to help safely handle and dispose of fire debris.

Fire debris can contain a variety hazardous materials, including asbestos. Moving fire debris that hasn't been deemed free of hazardous materials presents numerous health risks. Most immediate is the risk to the property owner or those sifting through the debris. Moving and transporting uninspected fire debris poses risks to the health of the workers loading and unloading the transport vehicle, as well as residents along the transport route. Disposing of uninspected fire debris also risks the health of disposal site workers and the environment. Further, mismanaging uninspected fire debris, such as illegally dumping it, endangers public health and safety and the environment.

To assure that fire debris is safe, the county will conduct a hazardous materials inspection of fire debris. Asbestos inspections will also be required and conducted on fire debris from structures built before 1984. Once the debris has been inspected and cleared of dangerous materials it can then be safely worked.

To assist affected property owners with debris removal, the County is rolling out its Fire Debris Removal Program, and suggests affected property owners consider participating in the program.

The program offers an extensive range of services resulting in a coordinated, cost-effective and timely cleanup of fire debris. Should the property owner opt out of the Debris Removal Program, the cost of the cleanup, including transportation and disposal costs, will be borne by the property owner.

Once a property has had its debris inspected and cleared, the property owner or their contractor must get pre-approval from the Solid Waste Management Division to dispose of the debris. Fire debris cannot be accepted at the disposal site in Rialto with out pre-approval.

Again, to protect yourself, your neighbors, community and the environment, do not transport fire debris without pre-approval from the Solid Waste Management Division. For more information, please call 909-386-8743.

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